

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05872 031220Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 030946Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3360
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5872

EXDIS

NOFORN

DEPT PLEASE PASS USCINCEUR

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, US, PK, FR, BR, JA, ENRG
SUBJ: SHAH CONVERSATION WITH BHUTTO

1. COURT MINISTER ALAM INFORMED ME JULY 2 THAT HE HAD BEEN
INSTRUCTED BY SHAH TO PROVIDE ME WITH REPORT OF CONVERSATION
SHAH HAD WITH BHUTTO ON NUCLEAR MATTERS DURING RECENT BHUTTO
VISIT TEHRAN.

2. ALAM SAID THAT BHUTTO HAD EXPRESSED EAGERNESS TO REPAIR
HIS RELATIONS WITH US. SHAH SAID HE THOUGHT MOST SERIOUS PAK-
US PROBLEM WAS BHUTTO INSISTENCE ON HAVING REPROCESSING PLANT.
HE REPORTEDLY ASKED BHUTTO WHY HE WANTED NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. BHUTTO STRONGLY DENIED THAT HE INTENDED TO DEVELOP
NUCLEAR WEAPON AND SAID HIS DESIRE FOR REPROCESSING PLANT

SECRET

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05872 031220Z

EXCLUSIVELY CONCERNED HIS INTEREST IN "MOST ECONOMICAL"
FORM OF NUCLEAR POWER. SHAH SUGGESTED THAT THERE WERE
TECHNICAL WAYS TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE WITHOUT PRODUCING
WEAPONS GRADE PLUTONIUM.

4. BHUTTO THEN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED
EXAMINE ALTERNATIVES. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE LEAD TIME

INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT AND DECISION DID NOT NEED TO BE MADE NOW. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF HIS "CURRENT POLITICAL VULNERABILITIES" HE HAD TO STICK TO HIS PUBLIC POSITION, BUT APPEARED NOT TO RULE OUT POSSIBILITIES FOR MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH AT LATER STAGE IF HE RETAINS CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT.

5. ALAM THEN ASKED, AFTER PASSING REFERENCE TO REPORTS OF JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO MODIFY THEIR PLANNED REPROCESSING PLANT, WHETHER BRAZIL HAD SHOWN ANY SIMILAR FLEXIBILITY. HE SUGGESTED THAT A GERMAN-BRAZILIAN PLAN WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THE REPORTED JAPANESE SCHEME, MIGHT MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR A FRENCH-PAKISTANI RETREHCHMENT. I SAID I WAS UNINFORMED, BUT WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE.

6. COMMENT: THE SHAH OBVIOUSLY TAKES SERIOUSLY HIS EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO NON-PROLIFERATION THROUGH HIS INFLUENCE ON PAKISTAN. (HE ALSO HAS HIS OWN NATIONAL REASONS TO STEER HIS NEIGHBOR AWAY FROM ACQUISITION OF WEAPONS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY.) IF WE REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO HIM IN THIS TRIOLOGUE, HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON BHUTTO. THEREFORE, ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING JAPANESE AND BRAZILIAN PLANS, OR GERMAN AND FRENCH INTENTIONS, COULD BE USED CONSTURCTIVELY. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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